

Table S2: The Questionnaire for Joint SECAP coordinators

Questions Asked to the Joint SECAP Coordinators	Joint SECAP “Riviera della Palme”	Joint SECAP “Venezia Orientale”	Joint SECAP “Tresinaro-Secchia”
The Joint SECAP process <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What were the steps following the city council’s approval in compliance with the CoM? 	The Joint SECAP has still not been approved by all the municipalities in the network.	The Joint SECAP was approved in 2021 together with adherence to the CoM for energy and the climate. The municipalities then uploaded the project to the Covenant of Mayors platform. A progress report is expected within two years of approval in the city council.	The Joint SECAP was approved in 2021 by the Unione dei Comuni Tresinaro-Secchia. The Joint SECAP plan was uploaded to the Covenant of Mayors platform.
Difficulties experienced <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What were the main difficulties faced in the relationship between municipalities and between municipalities and superordinate bodies when constructing the adaptation actions? 	Activating a series of focus groups on the issues of mitigation and adaptation to climate change, with the participation of political and technical representatives from the municipalities, trade associations, environmental groups, neighbourhood committees, local institutions (Region, Province), local ATO.	Since 1993, the presence of a permanent conference with annual financing has helped to increase collaboration between municipalities and higher-level entities.	The difficulties regarded priorities (especially the NRRP), which have diverted attention from SECAP, although contact with municipalities in the Union was maintained. The lack of a ‘relationship’ between the technical and political parts, which we are trying to recover.
Collaborative relationships activated <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has construction of the Joint SECAP favoured the development of concrete projects and/or works/interventions for the territory regarding the issues of climate change adaptation? What role did internal municipal offices play? Whose role was it to coordinate the adaptation actions implemented? 	A project called A_GreeNet financed by the EU LIFE fund is currently underway, which capitalizes on the Joint SECAP project financed through Interreg Italy-Croatia funds. In turn, this plan has generated and developed the Joint SECAP ‘Riviera delle Palme’. It should also be noted that a convention is being drafted pursuant to Art. 30 of the Consolidated Legal Text on Local Entities to define a structure of governance, activation, and coordinated management to implement the Joint SECAP. The City of San Benedetto del Tronto maintains its role as coordinator of Joint SECAP activities.	Financing through Regional Law 16/1993 has long required administrations to look for city planning in different respects. The Joint SECAP has inspired the new area planning document of Eastern Venice for the 2021–2027 period. The internal offices of the municipalities did not really contribute to drafting and implementing the Joint SECAP because the head municipality, professionals, and Eastern Veneto Development Agency (Agenzia di Sviluppo del Veneto Orientale, VEGAL) coordinated the project. Many of the data and activities necessary for the PAESC (Action Plan for Energy and the Climate (Piano d’Azione per l’Energia Sostenibile e il Clima, PAESC) were already known to VEGAL.	Round tables were activated for consultation and interaction to map, reach, inform, and involve local actors and stakeholders. The objective is to share mitigation and adaptation strategies, validate actions after verifying feasibility, financial possibilities, the existence of tools and projects useful for implementation, and, finally, to establish priorities for the implementation of possible pilot actions. Unfortunately, various priorities blocked the path, so some training/planning sessions were scheduled in preparation to monitor the SECAP actions.
Involvement of local populations and area actors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How did activities for stakeholder/local population participation and involvement influence the success of the project? Will they also play an important role in the future? How? 	As indicated in the answer to the first question, public and private subjects worked to identify issues and types of activities for both mitigation and adaptation. The success of the meetings shows that each participant played an important role that will be decisive in the future of Joint SECAP activities. Systems of communication and publication were envisaged to confirm the participation of subjects already involved and others who are becoming interested in the issues of climate change due to today’s difficult environmental situations.	The only negative aspect of the funds of Regional Law 16/93 regard time, due to which the project must be completed within 4–5 months. This is particularly demanding for work such as the PAESC. As a result, it was not possible to involve the population and stakeholders either beforehand or while in progress. Work was done afterwards, but this was very limited by the pandemic because the work was carried out in the second half of 2020. The intention is precisely to catch up on this front with a necessary update to the SECAP.	Round tables for consultation have been envisaged to build the working groups: Round table 1: Urban regeneration Round table 2: Environment and agriculture Round table 3: Industrial chains and the circular economy These round tables could have been supported by some focuses on cross-cutting issues: FOCUS 1: The agricultural chain FOCUS 2: Decarbonization of energy systems from a fossil-free perspective FOCUS 3: Review of urban-planning tools.